GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Public Services - Forest Department – Irregularities, misappropriation of funds in execution of VSS works in the sections of Narsipatnam, Visakhapatnam District - Disciplinary action against Sri KVNS Raju, Forest Range Officer formerly Chintapally of Narsipatnam Division - Inquiry finalized and findings received - Imposition of penalty of 2% cut in pension for a period of one year against the Charged Officer - Show-cause-notice issued – Explanation received - Final orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 7 Dated: 22-01-2016

Read the following:

1. From the Prl.CCF Ref.No.2246/2002/K3, Dt:01.03.2009.
2. Govt. Memo.No.4254/For.IV/A1/2002,Dated:06-07-2015.
3. From Sri KVNS Raju, Forest Range Officer (Retd),Explanation dt:20.07.2015.
4. Govt. Letter No.4254/For.IV/A1/2002, Dated:05-08-2015.
5. From the Secretary, APPSC, Lr.No.697/DC&C/3/2015, Dt:25.11.2015

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ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad has informed that disciplinary action has been initiated against Sri KVNS Raju, Forest Range Officer, formerly Chintapally of Narsipatnam Division along with other forest subordinate, U/R 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 and Articles of Charges were issued vide Ref.No.17475/2002/P4, dt:05.10.2002 on the following count:

Article–1:- "that the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, while functioning as FRO Chintapalli of Narsipatnam Division from 12-2-1999 to 31-7-2001 has exhibited with callousness, lack of supervision on the works carried out by FSO, Chintapalli section and allowed the FSO, Chintapally to misappropriate the Government funds to a tune of Rs.3,18,375/- and 3,340 Kgs of Rice in carrying works in VSS of Chintapally section and thus caused enormous loss to Govt. exchequer. Hence, the charge".

Article-2:- "That the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, while functioning as FRO has shown disregard to the coda provision and not check measured 100% of the works carried out in Chintapalli Range as per Section 102 of AP Forest Department Code and thus willfully neglected his duty and violated codal provision. Hence the charge".

Article-3:- "That the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju while functioning as FRO has exhibited lack of devotion to duty in not inspecting the VSS works in his jurisdiction and checking of the records maintained in VSS, resulting poor maintenance of records in some VSS and non-maintenance of records in most of the VSS. Hence, the charge".

Article -4:- "That during the aforesaid period and while functioning in the aforesaid office, the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, FRO has exhibited gross dereliction to duty and shown disregard to the instructions issued by the Prl.CCF/Govt., on the inspection the execution of works carried out in the VSS, resulting the poor survival of plantation in VSS. Hence the charge".

Article-5:- "That during the aforesaid period and while functioning in the aforesaid office, the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, FRO has exhibited utter callousness and leatherziness and not carried out any inspection on the execution of RFDs in Chintapalli section, resulting RFDs constructed in Chintapalli Range are not as per specifications and the amount spent on RFDs is infructuous and thus caused enormous wastage to the Government exchequer. Hence, the charge".

Article-6:- "That during the aforesaid period and while functioning in the aforesaid office, the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, FRO has exhibited lack of supervision in works carried out in VSS and distribution of Rice coupons to the VSS members. Resulting the coupons are with the FSO, Chintapalli after the execution of the works by the VSS members, which is against the norms and defeats the principles of natural justice, JFM and Food for work programme concepts. Hence the charge".

Article-7:- "That during the aforesaid period and while functioning in the aforesaid office, the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, FRO has shown disregard to the instructions issued by the Prl.CCF in his ref.No.32397/98/PIC-II, dt:21-9-1998 regarding instructions on transparency. Resulting which, no transparency with regard to amount sanctioned, drawn and paid to the VSS members. No proper resolutions made before and after the execution of works. No general body meetings and executive committee meetings conducted by the FSOs in Chintapalli Range. The total JFM concept is defeated in Chintapalli Range due to neglect of duty of Sri KVNS Raju, FRO. Hence the Charge".

Article-8:- "That during the aforesaid period and while functioning in the aforesaid office, the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, FRO has exhibited utter callousness, neglect of duty and lack of supervision and allowed the FSOs of Chintapalli Range to carryout the works without sanctioned estimates, which is contrary to the instructions laid down in Section 99 of AP Forest Department Code and Article 3 and 38 of AP financial Code Volume-I Hence the Charge".

Artcile-9:- "That during aforesaid period and while functioning in the aforesaid office, the said Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, Forest Range Officer, has shown neglect of duty and not followed the instructions issued by the Government in G.O.M.S.No.173, EFS&T (For.IV), dt:07-12-1996 and allowed the FSO of Chintapalli Section to carry out the works outside the RF area in 7 VSS with Rs.7,42,687/- against the norms of JFM and VSS. Resulting which the amount of Rs.7,42,687/- spent in 7 VSS outside the RF area in Chinthapalli section is in fructuous. This is all happened due to his lack of supervision only. Hence the charge.

2. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charges and submitted his explanation. Not satisfying with the explanation of the Charged Officer, the Conservator of Forests Visakhapatnam was appointed as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Narasipatnam was appointed as Presenting Officer.

3. The Inquiry Officer in his findings concluded that the charges framed against the Charged Officer are proved. The findings were communicated to the Charged Officer, and the Charged Officer has submitted his further defence, wherein he has not put forth any new points.

4. The Charged Officer retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9(1) of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

5. After careful examination of the matter, with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer, the remarks of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, and material made available, it is found that the charges framed against the Charged Officer are held proved and it is provisionally decided to impose penalty of **"2% cut in pension for a period of one year"** from the pensionary benefits of Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. Accordingly a Show Cause Notice was issued to the retired charged officer vide reference 2nd read above. The Charged Officer had submitted his explanation to the Show Cause Notice through reference 3rd read above, in which he accepted the punishment proposed.

7. Government after careful examination of the matter hereby order to impose to impose the penalty of **"2% cut in pension for a period of one year"** from the pensionary benefits of Sri K.V.N.S. Raju, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), under rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad is requested to take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

ASHWINI KUMAR PARIDA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
The Individual (through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).

Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Hyderabad, A.P.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Hyderabad
(with ref. to Lr.No. 697/DC&C/3/2015,Dt:25.11.2015).
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER